

2020

# Vernon Area Public Library Gift Guide

*Handpicked book  
recommendations for every  
reader on your list*

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# For the Armchair Time Traveler

## **THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES BY KRISTIN HARMEL**

A graduate student uses her forgery talents to help hundreds of Jewish children escape the Nazis during World War II. Inspired by true events.

## **THE EVENING AND THE MORNING BY KEN FOLLETT**

In 10th century England, the lives of a builder, a monk, and a noblewoman intersect through the years in this sweeping tale of ambition, survival, and love.

## **THE EXILES BY CHRISTINA BAKER KLINE**

The dramatic story of colonial Australia told through the eyes of women from all walks of life, from the daughter of an Aboriginal chief to the passengers of a convict transport ship.

## **HOW MUCH OF THESE HILLS IS GOLD BY C PAM ZHANG**

Two orphaned siblings flee their gold rush town and travel an unforgiving landscape where their survival is tested by family secrets, sibling rivalry, and the pull of belonging.

## **HAMNET BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL**

The evocative story of a young Shakespeare's marriage to a talented herbalist before the devastating death of their 11-year-old son shapes the production of his greatest play.

# For the Fan of the Otherworldly

## A DEADLY EDUCATION BY NAOMI NOVIK

At an elite magical school where deadly monsters roam the halls, an unwilling dark sorceress destined to rewrite the rules of magic struggles to spare the lives of innocents.

## MEXICAN GOTHIC BY SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA

A courageous socialite is drawn into the treacherous secrets of an isolated mansion in this horror novel set in 1950s Mexico.

## THE CITY WE BECAME BY N. K. JEMISIN

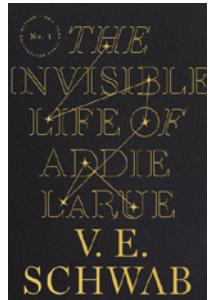
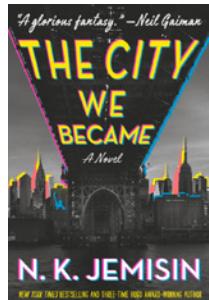
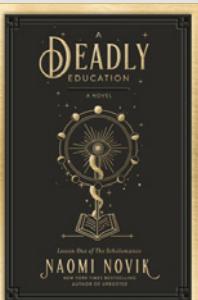
Enter into the dark underbelly of New York City, where a roiling, ancient evil stirs in the halls of power, threatening to destroy the city and its six newborn avatars.

## THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE BY V. E. SCHWAB

Making a Faustian bargain to live forever but be unremembered, a woman from 18th-century France survives centuries before meeting a man who remembers her name.

## THE HOUSE IN THE CERULEAN SEA BY TJ KLUNE

While evaluating potential risks posed by six supernatural orphans, a case worker at the Department in Charge of Magical Youth bonds with a caregiver hiding dangerous secrets.





## For the Thrill Seeker

### **THE DEVIL AND THE DARK WATER BY STUART TURTON**

Imprisoned for a mysterious crime, a detective must rely on his faithful sidekick to investigate in this thriller of supernatural horror on the high seas.

### **THE GUEST LIST BY LUCY FOLEY**

An expertly planned celebrity wedding on an isolated island is thrown into turmoil by bad weather, petty jealousies, a college drinking game, and an untimely murder.

### **EIGHT PERFECT MURDERS BY PETER SWANSON**

An unsuspecting bookseller is tapped by the FBI to help solve murders that eerily mimic the books on his list of the most ingenious classic mystery novels.

### **THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB BY RICHARD OSMAN**

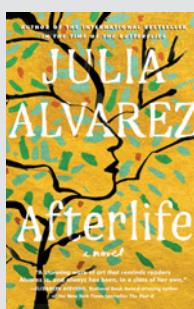
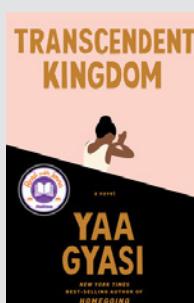
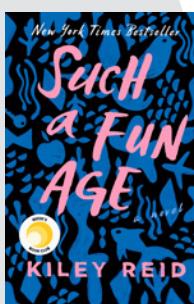
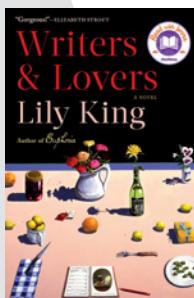
Meeting weekly to discuss unsolved crimes, four unlikely friends in a retirement village propose a daring plan to help a rookie cop solve her first big murder case.

### **THE SEARCHER BY TANA FRENCH**

As he begins a new life in an Irish village, Chicago police officer Cal Hooper comes out of retirement to help find a missing child and finds darkness in the picturesque town.



# For the Book Clubber



## THE VANISHING HALF BY BRIT BENNETT

Identical twin sisters, inseparable as children, embrace different racial identities and ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white.

## WRITERS & LOVERS BY LILY KING

A former golf child prodigy turned unemployed writer finds her determination to live a creative life is complicated by relationships with two very different men.

## SUCH A FUN AGE BY KILEY REID

A story about race and privilege is centered around a young Black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.

## TRANSCENDENT KINGDOM BY YAA GYASI

Researching the science behind the suffering that has devastated her Ghanaian immigrant family, a neuroscientist grapples with religion and her childhood faith in the evangelical church.

## AFTERLIFE BY JULIA ALVAREZ

Reeling from her beloved husband's sudden death, a retired literature professor in small-town Vermont is further derailed by an unstable sister and the arrival of a pregnant undocumented teen.



# For the Lifelong Learner

## CASTE BY ISABEL WILKERSON

A Pulitzer Prize-winning author explores the unspoken caste system that has shaped America, showing how our lives today are still defined by a rigid hierarchy.

## THE LAST STARGAZERS BY EMILY LEVESQUE

An award-winning astronomer shares findings from her remarkable career, detailing how today's scientists are innovating creative new approaches to explore space and the secrets of the universe.

## A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT BY BRITTANY K. BARNETT

A look at deep flaws and bias within the American justice system through the story of a single mother who was separated from her daughter and sentenced to life in prison for a first-time offense.

## THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE BY ERIK LARSON

A portrait of Winston Churchill that explores his day-to-day experiences during the Blitz and his role in uniting England during wartime, drawing on personal diaries and declassified intelligence.

## VESPER FLIGHTS BY HELEN MACDONALD

Essays about humanity's relationship with nature, exploring a range of subjects including captivity and immigration, ostrich farming, and the spectacle of bird migration observed from atop the Empire State Building.



# For the People Person

## **MEMORIAL DRIVE BY NATASHA TRETHEWEY**

A chillingly personal memoir of a former U.S. poet laureate reckoning with the brutal murder of her mother and coming into her own as a writer.

## **HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD BY ROBERT KOLKER**

The heartrending story of a family with twelve children, six of them diagnosed with schizophrenia, who became science's great hope in the quest to understand the disease.

## **EAT A PEACH BY DAVID CHANG**

An intimate memoir by an influential Korean-American chef about his search for identity, struggles with manic depression, and the unexpected challenges of success.

## **THE WRITER'S LIBRARY BY NANCY PEARL & JEFF SCHWAGER**

A collection of conversations with today's literary legends about the books that changed their lives, made them think, and brought them joy.

## **GIRL DECODED BY RANA EL KALIOUBY**

An Egyptian-American visionary and scientist provides an intimate view of her personal transformation as she follows her calling—to humanize technology and how we connect with one another.

# For Teens

## **YOU SHOULD SEE ME IN A CROWN** BY LEAH JOHNSON

When Liz Lighty's college scholarship falls through, she decides to run for prom queen in a last-ditch effort to go to her dream school.

## **CEMETERY BOYS** BY AIDEN THOMAS

Determined to prove himself a *brujo* (sorcerer) to his family, a trans boy accidentally summons the ghost of a classmate, who refuses to return quietly to death.

## **WONDER WOMAN: TEMPEST TOSSED** BY LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON

A graphic novel reimagining Wonder Woman's origins in a timely story about the refugee experience, teenage activism, and finding the love and strength to create change.

## **ALL THE STARS AND TEETH** BY ADALYN GRACE

When a spell goes wrong, Princess Amora Montara flees her island kingdom and teams up with a mysterious pirate on a quest to prove her worthiness to rule.

## **CHARMING AS A VERB** BY BEN PHILIPPE

Hiding less-than-honest business practices behind his charming smile and Ivy League ambition, a popular Haitian-American student is blackmailed by an intense classmate who wants to improve her image at school.





# For Grades 6–8

## **MAYA AND THE RISING DARK BY RENA BARRON**

On the South Side of Chicago, Maya's search for her missing father puts her at the center of a battle between this world and a mysterious Dark world.

## **A PLACE AT THE TABLE BY SAADIA FARUQI & LAURA SHOVAN**

Sixth-graders Sara, who is Islamic, and Elizabeth, who is Jewish, connect in an after-school cooking club and bond over food and their mothers' struggles to become U.S. citizens.

## **WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED BY VICTORIA JAMIESON & OMAR MOHAMED**

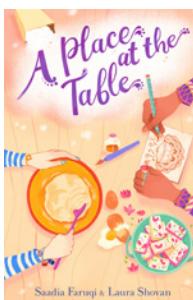
Based on real-life events, this graphic novel is about Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, who have spent most of their lives in a refugee camp in Kenya.

## **THE BOYS IN THE BACK ROW BY MIKE JUNG**

Before Eric moves away, he and his best friend Matt plan one final adventure: during marching band competition, they'll sneak away to a nearby comics convention to meet their favorite comics creator.

## **A WISH IN THE DARK BY CHRISTINA SOONTORNVAT**

Set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, this fast-paced adventure explores the difference between law and justice, and asks whether one child can shine a light in the dark.



# For Grades 3–5

## **DOODLEVILLE BY CHAD SELL**

When one of their creations becomes a monster, a group of young artists must work together in this inventive graphic novel for young readers.

## **FART QUEST BY AARON REYNOLDS**

After their masters are vaporized in a goblin battle gone wrong, three lowly apprentices decide to impersonate their mentors in this wild adventure.

## **FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON BY JANAЕ MARKS**

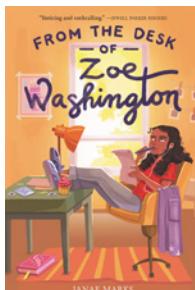
On her twelfth birthday, aspiring baker Zoe receives a letter from the imprisoned father she's never met. When he claims to be innocent, Zoe sets out to uncover the truth.

## **HOST SQUAD BY CLARIBEL A. ORTEGA**

Shortly before Halloween, Lucely and Syd cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits. Together, they must join forces with Syd's witch grandmother to save their town.

## **THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE: RISING FROM THE ASHES BY KATE HANNIGAN**

Travel back in time in this History Comics graphic novel as a brother and sister race through the burning city to reunite with their lost family.





## For Grades K-2

### **LAYLA AND THE BOTS #1: HAPPY PAWS BY VICKY FANG**

The first book in this STEAM-oriented series for newly independent readers shows Layla using creativity and problem-solving skills to keep a local amusement park from closing.

### **I AM ONE BY SUSAN VERDE**

A story that shows young readers that everything that makes the world better and more beautiful begins with one thing: one musical note, one paint stroke, one seed.

### **OUR FRIEND HEDGEHOG: THE STORY OF US BY LAUREN CASTILLO**

After a storm separates Hedgehog from her lifelong friend, Mutty, she bravely sets out to find him and makes new friends along the way.

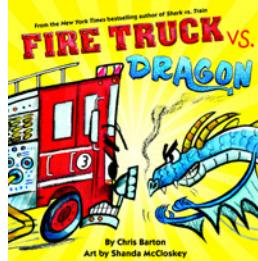
### **OWLY: THE WAY HOME BY ANDY RUNTON**

Despite Owly's kindness, would-be friends are frightened because he's an owl. Like Owly, Wormy needs a friend, too, and a great adventure begins when they meet.

### **WHAT ABOUT WORMS!? BY RYAN T. HIGGINS**

Tiger is big. Tiger is tough. But Tiger is afraid of worms. A story that inspires giggles from a best-selling author and illustrator.

# For Ages 3–5



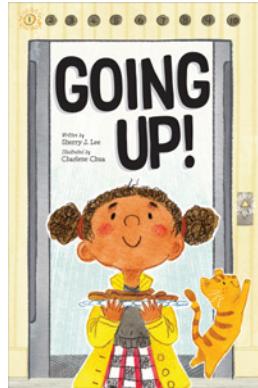
## FIRE TRUCK VS. DRAGON

BY CHRIS BARTON

It's the wackiest rivalry ever when the fire-breathing dragon and the fearless fire truck go head to head in an epic battle of fire against water!

## GOING UP! BY SHERRY J. LEE

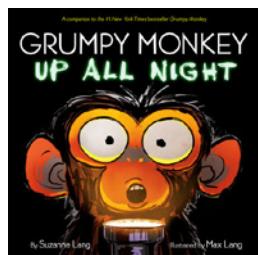
Sophie and her dad bake cookies for Olive's birthday and head to her party on the tenth floor of their building. In the elevator, they're joined by other neighbors, highlighting community bonds.



## GRUMPY MONKEY UP ALL NIGHT

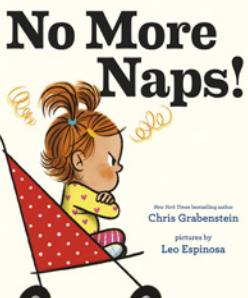
BY SUZANNE LANG

At a slumber party, Jim plans to stay UP ALL NIGHT! One by one, everyone else falls asleep; how long will Jim last?



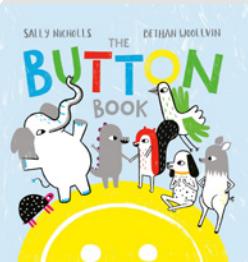
## NO MORE NAPS! BY CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

It's naptime but, like many willful toddlers, Annalise Devin McFleece won't have anything to do with sleeping.



## THE BUTTON BOOK BY SALLY NICHOLLS

Animal friends discover a collection of mysterious buttons in this interactive story that introduces colors and shapes; a great choice for at-home story time and bedtime.



## TEN ON A TWIG



LO COLE

## For Ages 0-2

### TEN ON A TWIG BY LO COLE

A countdown rhyme follows ten birds that, one by one, fall off of a twig. The last one finds a surprise waiting.

### LIBRARY BABIES BY PUCK

A board book that highlights all that libraries have for little ones and their grown-ups. Includes activities and tips to help boost the enjoyment of reading together.

### IN MY HEART BY MACKENZIE PORTER

A lovely board book that reassures little ones that they're always in their mom's heart, even when she's not at home.

### GO, GRANDMA, GO!

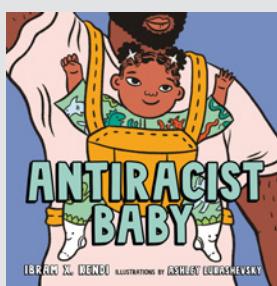
### & GO, GRANDPA, GO!

BY LYNN PLOURDE

Energetic board books perfectly capture the special bond between grandparents and grandchildren.

### ANTIRACIST BABY BY IBRAM X. KENDI

Introducing young children and caregivers to the powerful concept of antiracism, this board book is a great choice for families who are dedicated to contributing to a more just society.



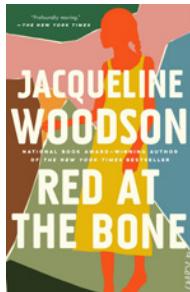
IBRAM X. KENDI ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASHLEY LUPASHEVSKY

# A Clever Gift Idea

The annual One Book, One Community series presents the opportunity for a thoughtful gift for the readers on your list: Pair a copy of a bestseller with tickets to an event with the author — something to unwrap, plus a shared experience.

**JACQUELINE WOODSON**, this year's One Book featured author, has written works for every age.

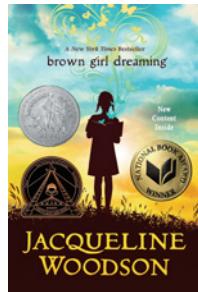
Visit [1book.org](http://1book.org) beginning December 14 for tickets to the March 18 online event and reading guides to tuck into your present.



**RED AT THE BONE**

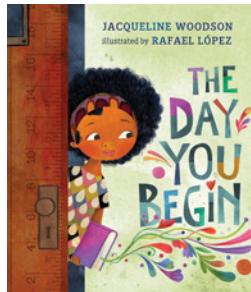
BONE

ADULTS



**BROWN GIRL DREAMING**

TEENS



**THE DAY YOU BEGIN**

BEGIN

KIDS



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